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Propositions

belonging to the PhD Thesis

The Assessment and Management of Social Impacts in Urban Transport Infrastructure Projects

By Lara Katharine Mottee

1. In transport planning and engineering practice, the social impacts of urban transport infrastructure are frequently undervalued, and are poorly understood and assessed.
2. The Social Impact Assessment process can be applied to assess and manage the consequences of urban transport projects.
3. Urban transport infrastructure can be planned in ways that meet the needs of present and future city populations and uphold values of sustainability.
4. Planning urban transport infrastructure requires integrated development planning to ensure that the cumulative social impacts are adequately considered throughout the life-cycle of a project.
5. The assessment, management and follow-up of social impacts extends from the earliest planning phases of a project to post closure.
6. Tensions between project and urban governance levels across geographical scales (such as local, metropolitan and national), have major implications on the effectiveness of impact assessment, management and follow-up of the social impacts from projects.
7. In developing impact mitigation measures and choosing how to manage social impacts, one should always put oneself in the shoes of those who are affected. Appreciating the experience of being affected greatly helps in understanding and managing the social impacts. Never impose on others what you would not accept yourself.
8. Politicians are elected to serve the needs of the public, not to serve their own needs. They are not as important to the decision-making process as they want us to believe.
9. "People shouldn't be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people." (Alan Moore, V for Vendetta)
10. We all make mistakes, and that's okay. But what is not okay is to use that as an excuse to keep blindly doing things the way we have always done them. It is never too late to pause, reassess and change our course for something better. Especially if that change will improve the lives of many.